

Message Text

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FOR IAA/CU/AF

SUBJECT: FORMAL TIES LINK SOMALI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND USSR

THE GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY SONNA REPORTED SATURDAY THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN A PUBLIC CEREMONY BETWEEN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SOMALI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VORONEZH IN THE USSR WHICH PROVIDES FOR "(1) TEACHING OF SOMALI AT VORONEZH UNIVERSITY AND RUSSIAN IN THE SOMALI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY; (2) COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES ON SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH BASED ON SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM; (3) TRAINING OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WITH HIGH STANDARDS OF EDUCATION; (4) EXCHANGE OF TEACHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL; (5) EXCHANGE OF CURRICULA; (6) EXCHANGE OF SECRET INFORMATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH; (7) EXCHANGE OF UNIVERSITY DELEGATION; AND (8) JOINT PLANNING OF COLLEGES."

SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT CLIMAXED A WEEKLONG VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM VORONEZH. THE POST VIEWS THE AGREEMENT AS PERHAPS THE DRIVING OF THE FINAL NAIL INTO THE COFFIN OF HOPES FOR U.S. EXCHANGES WITH THE SOMALI EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. IRONICALLY, THE BULK OF THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOMALIA WAS THE RESULT OF US AID EFFORTS AND EARLIER, THOSE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. EVEN MORE IRONIC, THE SIGNER OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE SOMALI SIDE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IBRAHIM MOHAMMED ABYAN, IS A GRADUATE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN, WITH A DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY.

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